

Streets

Wednesday, 12 March 2008

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Being in the loop

CHAN MO LIN

PRINT EMAIL



MBS CHEERS: Lots of cheers and yamseng that night.

Sharing, caring, bonding. That's what four alumni members of the Methodist Boys' School (MBS) Kuala Lumpur had in mind when they created an informal forum in cyberspace for former school mates to strengthen ties and make new ones. CHAN MO LIN, an alumnus, writes about the MBSLoop.

ALUMNI of the Methodist Boys' School Kuala Lumpur got together to celebrate Chinese New Year with a dinner at Oriental Pavilion, a restaurant at Jaya 33, Petaling Jaya, that is owned by three alumni of the school.

The beer started flowing at 6pm and the noisy camaraderie began as 140 alumni members aged between 20 and 70 started arriving at the scene.

People who were but faceless names on "The Loop" suddenly took on flesh and blood personas.

What is The Loop, you ask? Well, it's The MBSLoop to be exact: an unofficial meeting place on the Internet for teachers and students (past and present) of the school (and not to be mistaken for its official site, the MBSOBA).

It was conceptualised by four alumni members wanting to provide an informal forum in cyberspace for school mates to foster existing ties and to make new ones.

These four moderators act as watchdogs over The Loop and membership is free. E-mails are sent to mbsloop@googlegroups.com.

I joined readily and have not looked back since as I have made countless new friends and rekindled long-lost friendships.

I specially treasure getting back in touch again with Joe Cho Chor Nam with whom I used to play spiders in Jalan Birch (now Jalan Maharajalela) in the 1950s. Joe is now a successful stockbroker in Melbourne.

Yet another financial wizard I got in touch with because of The Loop is Lo Kok Kee a.k.a Warren Buffet Jr as he is sometimes known.

Refer to Kok Kee all things financial and he has the answers. Because members of The Loop, or "Loopers" as we are called, are from all over the globe, it forms a great networking avenue for those who seek information or assistance in any part of the world where The Loop has its presence.

It helped a Looper, for example, who emigrated to Australia when this country's chapter rallied around to give support and guidance.

Doctors, lawyers, dentists, bankers, stockbrokers, developers, entrepreneurs and people from all walks of life number among The Loopers.

It has proved to be a powerhouse when instead of Googling, we e-mail each other about



WHO'S ELVIS HERE?: Old boy and young boy sing along.



ALUMNI: Chan Mo Lin (left) and her business partner and friend, Datuk Philip Siew.

nstonline TODAY

Guan Eng takes oath of office

GEORGE TOWN: DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng was yesterday sworn in as the fourth chief minister of Penang.

Pas plans to improve access to Kelantan

KUALA LUMPUR: Pas will strive to boost Kelantan's economy by improving access to the west coast and northern states of peninsular Malaysia, the party's vice-president Datuk Husam Musa said ...

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GEORGE TOWN: DAP veteran Chong Eng actually won her Bukit Mertajam parliamentary seat with a bigger majority than announced earlier.

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an issue needing an answer, and almost always someone will respond, offering assistance directly or otherwise pointing to those who can. It's like a family.

Most of The Loopers are aged 40 and above, all of whom have the unspoken bond of belonging to the same school that shaped their formative years.

At the dinner, the food was accompanied by entertainment from Alex Wong, an Elvis Presley impersonator and the winner of the Super Talent Search 2007.

Alex belted out hits like It's Now or Never, Wooden Heart and The Wonder of You.

William Lor and his wife Luisa, once Malaysia's top Latin dance champions, danced the jive and cha cha, together with their 12-year-old daughter, Nicol and her partner, Trillion. The youngsters are the current Latin dance champions for the under-12 age group.

Annette and Roy Hepolette from Singapore sang and danced to a raucous, cheering crowd as Roy's Blue Suede Shoes drew out a senior alumni member, Lee Kee Choon, who did the twist, making Chubby Chucker look like a ballerina from Swan Lake!

I believe that our school has taught us one thing — that the most important thing in life is not so much winning, but helping others to win, even if it means a sacrifice on our part.

After all, a candle loses nothing if it is used to light another one. This, in a nutshell, is what The Loop is all about.

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